Voluntary organisations for promoting peace and communal harmony

1725. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute voluntary organisations consisting of different community leaders to promote peace and harmony among different communities in cities and towns where communal tension is a chronic affair; and

(b) whether Government propose to increase the amount allotted for this purpose from Rs. 9 lakhs allotted in the year 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Government of India do not constitute voluntary organisations. These are formed by the members of the public and this Ministry grants financial assistance to them for organising activities in the cause of national integration, peace and harmony among different communities.

(b) The budget provision for the current financial year has already been stepped up to Rs. 20 lakhs.

Unlicensed and Smuggled Arms and Ammunition

1726. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a drive to seize unlicensed/illegally smuggled arms and ammunition throughout the country;

(b) whether huge arms and ammunition smuggled from Sri Lanka were recently recovered in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) what is the action taken after the seizure of the huge illegally smuggled arms/ammunition in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Possession of unlicensed/illegally smuggled arms and ammunition is an offence under the Arms Act, 1959. Necessary powers under the said Act to check and unearth such arms and ammunition and to proceed against the offenders are vested with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Instructions already exist enjoining upon the State Governments/UT Administrations to conduct periodic raids and surprise checks to curb this menace.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Barbed wire fencing along Indo-Bangladesh border

1727. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to erect barbed wire fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh Border;

(b) whether Government also propose to detect infiltrators and delete their names from the voters list on war footing;

(c) whether Government also propose to issue Identity Cards to all citizens in border States;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to implement these plans; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir, but in selected stretches.

(b) The work of detecting foreigners is a continuing activity. Those detected to be foreigners have not been included in the electoral rolls.

as only Indian citizens are eligible to be so included.

(c) Identity Cards are proposed to be issued in selected areas in the border States.

(d) and (e) Erection of barbed wire fencing for 158 Kms in Assam has been taken up and it has been approved over a length of 231 Kms in Meghalaya.

A Pilot Scheme for issue of Identity cards is under implementation in some selected border areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The State Governments of Rajasthan and Gujaart have so far distributed 2,08,550 and 60,542 identity cards respectively.

The Governments of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir have also decided to issue identity cards in identified villages. The Govt. of India have also requested the States of Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura to formulate such schemes.

Guarantee of opportunities to minorities

1728. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to guarantee to all minorities, linguistic and religious, peace and security and ensure full opportunities for progress and development of the minorities;

(b) if so, the details of these commitments;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to implement these commitments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities seeks to ensure that there is no discrimination, that the minorities get fair and adequate share in various developmental programmes and that they enjoy safety of life and property. The implementation of the programme is monitored by the Central Government periodically at the highest level.

Detentions without trial

1729. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases and the names of the States, in which detentions without trial under the National Security Act and similar other Acts were effected since the formation of the National Front Government at the Centre;

(b) whether such actions were taken at the instance of the Government of India;

(c) if so, what was the reason therefor; and

(d) if not, whether Government take appropriate steps to put a stop to such acts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The following four Central Preventive Detention Acts are operative at present:—

1 The National Security Act, 1980.

2. The Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

3. The Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplied of Essential Activities Act, 1980.